

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre
and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of
Galilee,
into the district of the Decapolis.
And people brought to him a deaf man
who had a speech impediment
and begged him to lay his hand on him.
He took him off by himself away from the
crowd.

He put his finger into the man's ears
and, spitting, touched his tongue;
then he looked up to heaven and
groaned, and said to him,
"Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!"—
And immediately the man's ears were
opened,
his speech impediment was removed,
and he spoke plainly.



He ordered them not to tell anyone.
But the more he ordered them not to,
the more they proclaimed it.
They were exceedingly astonished and
they said,
"He has done all things well.
He makes the deaf hear and the mute
speak."

Readings for the week:

23rd Sunday in Ord. Time

Isa 35:4-7a
Ps 146:6-7, 8-9,
9-10
Jas 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Monday

Col 1:24-2:3
Ps 62:6-7, 9
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday

Col 2:6-15
Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9,
10-11
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday Nativity of Virgin Mary

Mic 5:1-4a or
Rom 8:28-30
Ps 13:6ab, 6c
Matt 1:1-16, 18-23
or 1:18-23

Thursday

Col 3:12-17
Ps 150:1b-2,
3-4, 5-6
Luke 6:27-38

Friday

1 Tim 1:1-2,
12-14
Ps 16:1b-2a and
5, 7-8, 11
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday

1 Tim 1:15-17
Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4,
5 and 6-7
Luke 6:43-49

24th Sunday in Ord. Time

Isa 50:4c-9a
Ps 116:1-2,
3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Jas 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35



Opening Prayer

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

Very likely, the man in today's gospel reading had been the butt of jokes and unsympathetic mimicry as he stuttered his life away in his small, isolated world. Yet some of his acquaintances are compassionate enough to bring him to Jesus, begging Jesus to speak to the man in the only language he can understand—the language of touch.

Touching the man's ears and tongue, Jesus speaks a single word: "*Ephphatha*!" ("Be opened!") It would not have been such an unintelligible word or a magical incantation in the Decapolis where many spoke a kind of Aramaic dialect. But it is more important that not only the deaf man hears this word, but that all who come to Jesus recognize this as the command to us of the most open One—open to God's will, open to healing of the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

What happens next is a new creation, such as that hoped for by Isaiah in the first reading. With open ears and unshackled tongue, the man speaks plainly—to Jesus, for they are on their own. Here is a model of discipleship that is recalled in the baptismal rite of every Christian. As the child's or adult's ears and mouth are touched by the minister of the sacrament, these words accompany the action in what is still called the Ephphatha rite: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. May he (soon) touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father." Throughout our lives we need to come to Jesus or be brought to him by the compassion of others, for the healing of whatever is an impediment to our baptismal commitment.

Closing Prayer

Divine Voice, your gift of faith gives each of us an opportunity to see and hear as you would: to see and hear you all around us, and to see and hear others as you do. *Ephphatha!* you cry: open too for us our hearts, our souls, our very selves. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

- In the gospel, Jesus heals a deaf man through touch and the words "*Ephphatha*!"—that is, 'Be opened!' In what ways is Jesus calling you to be more open to his wisdom and word?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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Living Liturgy™ Sunday Bulletin.
Liturgical Press, Collegeville,
Minnesota 56321. © 2021 by
Order of Saint Benedict
www.litpress.org 1-800-858-5450

2021

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 •Faith Formation Registration CCD - 8/29/21 THRU 9/12/21	30	31	01 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	02	03 •6:00 am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament •6:30am Mass/Anointing of the Sick	04 •4:30pm Confession •4:30 Divine Mercy •5:00 pm Mass •Birthday Blessing
05 •Divine Mercy 8:00 am •Mass 8:30 am •Birthday Blessing	06 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	07 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	08 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	09	10 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	11 •4:30pm Confession •4:30 Divine Mercy •5:00 pm Mass •2nd Collection Catholic University
12 •Divine Mercy 8:00am •Mass 8:30 am. •Parish Council Meeting 10 am •2nd Coll Catholic University	13 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	14 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	15 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	16	17 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	18 •4:30pm Confession •4:30 Divine Mercy •5:00 pm Mass
19 •Divine Mercy 8:00am •Mass 8:30 am.	20 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	21 •Bread Baking 12:30 a.m. •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	22 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	23	24 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	25 •4:30pm Confession •4:30 Divine Mercy •5:00 pm Mass •2nd Collection Maintenance Fund
26 •Divine Mercy 8:00am •Mass 8:30 am •2nd Collection Maintenance Fund •Religious Educ begins	27 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary •MS/HS Faith Formation 3-5	28 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	29 •Daily Mass 6:30 am. •Rosary	30	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09

Announcements
09/04/21 to 09/05/21

Financials: Last Week 08/25/21-08/31/21

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total \$1789.00 Short \$611.00		
In Church		\$ 1789.00	
OnLine Giving		\$.00	
Mail In		\$.00	

Today, Second Collection is for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund. Your generosity reflects our Christian compassion and love for our neighbor. Mahalo for your kokua!

Faith Formation Registration is NOW open until September 12th. There are envelopes at the back of church for returning students. There will also be blank forms for new families to fill out. Please return completed forms to the basket at the back of church before September 12th. Please contact Auntie Dawn or Auntie Kiana with any questions.

Bread Baking will resume on Tuesday, September 21st. The order sheet is at the back of church. Thank you for your support.

Have a Blessed Week!